

WEEK EIGHT
HOUSTON at CONNECTICUT

Coach’s son leads Houston to 24-17 win over UConn

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. -- Houston coach Dana Holgorsen says he had never given out a game ball before handing one to defensive back Grant Stuard in the locker room on Saturday.

Stuard had 15 tackles, including a touchdown-saving effort to stop a 58-yard run by UConn’s Kevin Mensah in the Cougars’ 24-17 win over the Huskies.

Stuard caught Mensah on Houston’s 4-yard line, leading to goal-line stand that preserved a 17-10 lead. Houston (3-4, 1-2 American) had just taken that lead on a 58-yard-touchdown pass from Holgorsen’s son Logan to Jeremy Singleton.

“You’ve gotta make them snap it again,” said Stuard. “If it’s one yard, a half a yard, they’ve still got to get that yard. They’ve still got to get that touchdown. And our defense prides itself on playing every single play, regardless of the situation.”

The younger Holgorsen threw for 123 yards and had just 37 yards passing before finding Singleton wide open down the left sideline.

“I thought he did fine,” Dana Holgorsen said of his son, a walk-on freshman making his first start. “He’s not fazed on the sidelines. It’s not too big for him. He’s not wide eyed. He’s been there for 19 years now. He’s used to me yelling at him.”

Houston (3-4, 1-2) stretched its lead with a late 13-play touchdown drive that ended with a 2-yard run from Bryson Smith.

UConn freshman Jack Zergiotis, who threw for 270 yards, hit Art Tompkins for a 7-yard touchdown with 1:40 left, but the Huskies failed to recover the onside kick.

Mensah rushed for 93 yards for UConn (1-6, 0-4), which suffered its sixth straight loss, 22nd straight to a Bowl Subdivision team and 15th straight in the American Athletic Conference.

The Huskies held the ball for 36 minutes and outgained Houston 438-284, but managed just one other touchdown. That came in the second quarter when Zergiotis hit Matt Drayton over the middle for a 17-yard score that put the Huskies up 7-3, giving them their first lead since September.

“The moral of the story is, when you get opportunities you’ve gotta take advantage of those opportunities and we just didn’t do that today,” said UConn coach Randy Edsall.

The Cougars had a 10-7 lead at halftime after an interception by linebacker Donavan Mutin, which set up a 12-yard touchdown run from Kyle Porter. Porter finished with 60 yards on 15 carries.

Logan Holgorsen got the start over Clayton Tune, who suffered a hamstring injury that limited his practice during the week. D’Eriq King, who was touted as a Heisman candidate before the season, was asked to redshirt after a 1/3 start to the season.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA
Dana Holgorsen was caught by a television microphone on the sidelines in the second quarter giving a profane-laced comment about his players’ ability to be coached.

“I say things all the time I don’t mean,” Holgorsen said. “In the heat of the battle, things on the sidelines, hot mics or cameras getting caught. My guys know good and well what I think of them, how hard I’d coach them and how much I think of them and how much I appreciate everything that they do.”

WILDCAT
Houston was effective with Smith running the Wildcat. He had nine rushes for 29 yards and completed two his three throws for 55 yards. Most of that came when he tossed a pass to Singleton that went for 45 yards and set up Houston’s first score, a 42-yard field goal.

THE TAKEAWAY
Houston needs to win three more games in its final five games to become bowl eligible for the seventh straight season.

UConn’s last win against a Bowl Subdivision team came against Tulsa on Oct. 21, 2017, that also was their last win in the American Conference.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
HOU	3	7	7	7	24
CONN	0	7	3	7	17

Scoring Summary -----					
FIRST QUARTER					
HOU FG 9:44 Dalton Witherspoon 42 Yd Field Goal				HOU	CONN
6 plays, 39 yards, 2:37				3	0
SECOND QUARTER					
CONN TD 13:41 Matt Drayton 17 Yd pass from Jack Zergiotis (Clayton Harris Kick)				HOU	CONN
8 plays, 71 yards, 4:12				3	7
HOU TD 4:23 Kyle Porter 12 Yd Run (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)					
2 plays, 30 yards, 0:43				10	7
THIRD QUARTER					
CONN FG 4:48 Clayton Harris 43 Yd Field Goal				HOU	CONN
9 plays, 55 yards, 4:52				10	10
HOU TD 3:31 Jeremy Singleton 58 Yd pass from Logan Holgorsen (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)					
3 plays, 75 yards, 1:17				17	10
FOURTH QUARTER					
HOU TD 3:19 Bryson Smith 2 Yd Run (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)				HOU	CONN
13 plays, 78 yards, 6:14				24	10
CONN TD 1:40 Art Thompkins 7 Yd pass from Jack Zergiotis (Clayton Harris Kick)					
8 plays, 63 yards, 1:39				24	17

Team Stats	HOU	CONN
First Downs	16	23
Passes for First	6	17
Rushes for First	7	6
Penalties for First	3	0
Third Down Efficiency	3-11	6-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	1-2
Total Yards	284	438
Total Plays	53	75
Avg Gain Per Play	5.4	5.8
Net Yards Rushing	106	168
Rushes	35	31
Yards Per Rush	3.0	5.4
Net Yards Passing	178	270
Comp-Att	9-18	27-44
Yards Per Pass	9.9	6.1
Times Sacked	0	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-22
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	6	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	2	6
Penalty Yards	11	52
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	24:00	36:00

Individual Stats							
RUSHING							
HOUSTON	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Kyle Porter	18	68	3.8	1	18		
Bryson Smith	9	29	3.2	1	7		
Chandler Smith	3	19	6.3	0	11		
Marquez Stevenson	1	14	14.0	0	14		
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
Logan Holgorsen	3	-22	-7.3	0	0		
CONNECTICUT	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Kevin Mensah	12	93	7.8	0	58		
Art Thompkins	16	46	2.9	0	21		
Jack Zergiotis	3	29	9.7	0	27		
PASSING							
HOUSTON	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Logan Holgorsen	7	15	123	8.2	1	0	41.2
Bryson Smith	2	3	55	18.3	0	0	83.2
CONNECTICUT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jack Zergiotis	27	44	270	6.1	2	1	63.4
RECEIVING							
HOUSTON	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jeremy Singleton	2	103	51.5	1	58		
Kyle Porter	3	36	12.0	0	25		
Marquez Stevenson	2	27	13.5	0	16		
Courtney Lark	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Bryson Smith	1	1	1.0	0	1		
CONNECTICUT	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Cameron Ross	9	75	8.3	0	16		
Art Thompkins	7	54	7.7	1	21		
Ardell Brown	3	52	17.3	0	27		
Kevin Mensah	1	26	26.0	0	26		
Matt Drayton	2	21	10.5	1	17		
Elijah Jeffreys	2	19	9.5	0	13		
Jay Rose	2	17	8.5	0	14		
Jayce Medlock	1	6	6.0	0	6		